

SECRET

DIARY FOR THURSDAY, 17 March 1955

Dr. [REDACTED]

References: [REDACTED] Diary Items, same subject, dated 10 March 1955 and 15 March 1955.

1. On 16 March, [REDACTED] Security Office, [REDACTED] Dr. [REDACTED], Dr. [REDACTED], and I had a conference. [REDACTED] prior to the meeting, had written up a long list of specific questions which he wished answered by Dr. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that the isolation, plus the specialized interrogation technique he had developed at [REDACTED], would, he believed, result in a complete psychic breakdown, if enough time were permitted. The volunteer [REDACTED] personnel used to date could never be brought to this stage. He stressed, however, that anyone going through a complete breakdown would come out with somewhat lowered mental facilities. [REDACTED] was particularly interested in determining whether the isolation technique could be adapted to field conditions, both in a period of time required to break the individual and in the equipment utilized. [REDACTED] stated the use of certain types of drugs might shorten the period before the breakdown occurred. [REDACTED] also stated that some other type of equipment, such as an inflatable suit or a water tank, might produce approximately the same conditions. These, he felt, might be more applicable to field conditions.

2. There was a considerable amount of discussion about the use by the Soviets of small rooms to break down the morale of prisoners of war and make them susceptible to brain-washing. [REDACTED] stated that such isolation distorts the individual's own picture of himself, and result in intense desire to communicate with fellow man in order to regain the sense of identity. The possibility that the Russians know about Dr. [REDACTED] experiments at [REDACTED] in isolating dogs and subsequently human beings, was also discussed. [REDACTED] mentioned that three top Russian physiologists had visited [REDACTED] to watch a brain operation, in which the ability to stimulate or block memory was demonstrated. These same physiologists saw something of [REDACTED] installations, presumably isolated dogs. There was also an article in [REDACTED] Magazine which gave some indication of the nature of [REDACTED] work. The entire experiment in [REDACTED] has been terminated. This was financed by the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has twice gone to [REDACTED] to discuss the experiment with [REDACTED]. So far as [REDACTED] knows, nobody in the United States or [REDACTED] is now engaged in this field. F/I

3. At the end of the meeting, [REDACTED] stated that he wanted to utilize the questions which [REDACTED] had answered as a basis for drawing up a project, which would, if approved, permit CIA to utilize Dr. [REDACTED] services including his medical secretary and psychologist. [REDACTED] stated that he had had a talk earlier in the week with unidentified individuals in [REDACTED]. He would prefer not to make any arrangements with the [REDACTED] because he believes our Agency is the appropriate one.

4. On 17 March, [REDACTED] telephoned to advise that on his way back yesterday afternoon, Dr. [REDACTED] had mentioned that his conference a little earlier this week in [REDACTED] had been with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], his Deputy. [REDACTED] had [REDACTED]

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displayed great interest in [redacted] experiments. He asked [redacted] to furnish him with a report. [redacted] indicated that he might want [redacted] to conduct a single experiment on an antagonistic subject which would result in complete psychic breakdown. [redacted] stated that he would not want any other agency to know anything about this experiment unless it proved to be successful. [redacted] reiterated to [redacted] that he was adverse to becoming involved with the [redacted] I had [redacted] telephone [redacted] to brief him on these details. [redacted] stated that he would expedite his project paper and send it through the Director of Security to Calif. TSS, so that agency coordination would be effected at the proper level.

cc: [redacted]